

Hymns with a Gospel Message

SING AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Ephesians 5:18b-20, "...Be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Today, people of the church still worship with their heart, soul, mind, and lips. When it is God led (Spirit led), no God fearing person should rebel and complain as to what is sung and what is led. The problem is... "Is the song Spirit led and Scripturally sound?"

Today's music has a beat of its own. In yesteryear, there might have been another beat or tune as to what is truly "Spirit led."

We have to be careful as to what we sing! If a song does not go along with Scripture, it should not be sung in church as a congregational or worship song.

As words are important, so are the tunes, timing, or music rhythm we sing are also important!

If Words are the only important thing to think about during worship, then what would happen if we sung Scriptural words honoring the Lord to the tune of "You A'nt Nothing but a Hound Dog!" or the old country song, "Faded Love?"

Sounds/tune/rhythm need to honor God also. Do you think God approved of the sounds and revelry going on when Moses heard the sounds in the Israelites' camp as they were worshipping the golden calf?

Exodus 32:18-19, "Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear."¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain."

It is imperative that we honor God with the sounds and words that are pleasing to His ears!

Some may say, "Well, how do we know what is pleasing to His ears?"

The answer: "The Holy Spirit will let us know what is right and what is wrong with songs...Word wise or tune wise!

Listen to the Spirit...Don't grieve the Holy Spirit!

"He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches!"...Revelation of Jesus to the churches.

"What are hymns? What is the value of hymns in worship?"

Answer: A hymn is a song of praise. In ancient Greek culture, a *hymnos* was musical praise directed to the gods or heroes of the day.

In Christianity, hymns are directed to the one true God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Usually the Son points his praise to the Father and the Spirit points his praise to the Son).

The Words of a hymn/song to be sung congregationally should be to build-up, to encourage, and to unify the saints.

Note: Some songs/hymns should be to break-down the barriers of the sinner (conviction) that would keep him/her from giving his/her heart to the Lord.

God's people have sung hymns in honor of the Almighty since the time of Moses, Exodus 15:1, "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."

David sang the "new song" God gave him and taught others to sing "a hymn of praise to our God" Psalm 40:3, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him."

Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together at the Last Supper Mark 14:26, "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

The early church sang hymns as part of their regular gatherings, 1 Corinthians 14:26, "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up."

Paul and Silas, with their feet in stocks in a Philippian jail, were “praying and singing hymns to God”, Acts 16:23-25, *“After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”*

The subject matter of a hymn is what distinguishes it from the “psalms” and “spiritual songs” mentioned in Ephesians 5:19 (ESV).

It is pretty well recognized among most denominations, a psalm can be thought of as Scripture set to music—usually from the book of Psalms—and a spiritual song can be any song with a spiritual theme, including songs of testimony and admonition. A hymn addresses and celebrates God and has the purpose of praise and adoration.

The main Scripture mentioned first, (Ephesians 5:18b–20, ESV) says there is a direct connection between being filled with the Spirit and singing: “Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”

A Spirit-filled Christian is a singing Christian. Music is the natural overflow of a heart in fellowship with the Lord.

Exuberance and energy always accompanies a “Spirit filled” worship service. However, to think that high energy and loud shouting is the only way to worship is not necessarily “Spirit led”...but, possibly “spirit led.”

The songs the church sings are not to be simply a musical exercise; they must be in the heart and not just in the mouth.

The hymns the Spirit prompts are a means by which believers edify, encourage, and teach each other, *“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16).*

Hymns are a valuable aid to worship because they help to focus our attention on the goodness and glory of the Lord.

The hymn “How Great Thou Art,” for example, reminds us of God’s majesty revealed in creation, His perfect sacrifice on the cross, and His coming return for His own—all matters of praise. We sing and hear a message at the same time!

**We are going to focus on one song today:
One Day**

*One day when Heaven was filled with His praises, One day when sin was as black as
could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, Dwelt among men, my example is He!*

*Refrain: Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me; Buried, He carried my sins
far away;
Rising, He justified freely forever; One day He's coming—O glorious day!*

*One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain, One day they nailed Him to die on the
tree;
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected: Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He!
Refrain*

*One day they left Him alone in the garden, One day He rested, from suffering free;
Angels came down o'er His tomb to keep vigil; Hope of the hopeless, my Savior is He!
Refrain*

*One day the grave could conceal Him no longer, One day the stone rolled away from
the door;
Then He arose, over death He had conquered; Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.
Refrain*

*One day the trumpet will sound for His coming, One day the skies with His glories will
shine;
Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing; Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!
Refrain*

The Life and Ministry of John Wilbur Chapman

BORN: June 17, 1859—Richmond, Virginia

DIED: December 25, 1918—New York

LIFE SPAN: 59 years, 6 months, 8 days

Forever reknown as a great combination pastor and evangelist, Chapman has been overlooked in another area that still brings blessings to myriads of Christians singing the great songs of the faith, for J. Wilbur Chapman gave the Christian world perhaps the greatest gospel content song of all time when he penned the words for "One Day."

One Day...Days fill the Bible with great remembrances. The days in which the Lord God made the heavens, the earth, and man, (Genesis).

The prophets proclaim the glory of the Lord and point out frequently the praises stated and sung in heaven by all heaven's population.

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Sin never becomes lighter or not so dark as the original sin. Sin always becomes darker, sadder and more apt to signal a putrification of society instead of a purification of society.

Jesus came down when sin was as black as could be...and was born of a virgin just as the prophets foretold (truth and purity found in Jesus).

Jesus became flesh and dwelt amongst us (John 1)...

He is our example (living for Jesus where we can be like Jesus).

Jesus loved us so much he would live to honor God and be an example for us.

Dying he made it possible for salvation,

Buried he took our sin and forever made it possible for man to know him.

Rising (Resurrection) he justified us (made it possible for our resurrection).

See how this song literally gives truth with Scripture and ties it in with God's grace and mercy.

One Day He's Coming...Oh, glorious DAY!

